

REMARKS

Claims 1 and 6-45 are in the application, with Claims 16-30 withdrawn from further consideration. Claim 1 is amended to overcome a rejection under 35 USC 112, as discussed below. Claims 2-5 are canceled in light of the amendments to Claim 1. Claim 15 is amended to correct a typographical error that is apparent on its face and to be consistent with the other claims. New Claims 31-45 are added; these claims are analogous to Claims 1-15 as originally filed.

Claims 1-15 are rejected under 35 USC 112, second paragraph, as being indefinite for failing to particularly point out and distinctly claim the subject matter which Applicants regard as the invention. Claims 2-5 are canceled, and new Claims 31-45 are added.

The Examiner contends that the preamble of Claims 1-15 is misleading and confusing such that the intended preamble recites a "bistable molecule", but that the claims as recited proceed to recite a multiple electrode device having a bistable molecule as one of the components of the device.

Claim 1 is amended to recite a bistable molecule and Claims 2-5 are canceled, since they are drawn to a multiple electrode device. The bistable molecule itself is recited in Claims 1 and 6-15. New Claims 31-45 are added to recite a multiple electrode device having a bistable molecule as one of the components of the device. Claims 31-45 are analogous to Claims 1-15 (as originally filed).

Reconsideration of the rejection of Claims 1 and 6-15, together with new Claims 31-45 under 35 USC 112, second paragraph, is respectfully requested.

The Examiner cites the following references as being pertinent to Applicants' disclosure: Heath et al (U.S. Patent 6,198,655) (also cited by Applicants in their Information Disclosure Statement) and Bratkovski et al (U.S. Patent 6,512,119). Applicants have reviewed these references and believe that they neither disclose nor suggest Applicants' claimed invention, whether taken alone or in combination with each other.

The application, as amended, is considered to be in condition for allowance. The Examiner is respectfully requested to take such action. If the Examiner has any questions, he is invited to contact the undersigned at the below-listed telephone number. HOWEVER, PLEASE CONTINUE TO ADDRESS ALL FURTHER WRITTEN CORRESPONDENCE TO: IP ADMINISTRATION, LEGAL DEPARTMENT, M/S 35, HEWLETT-PACKARD COMPANY, P.O. BOX 272400, FORT COLLINS, CO 80527-2400.

Respectfully submitted,

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